

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 7, and 12 have been cancelled.

1. (currently amended) A link speed adjusting system, comprising:
a network adapter to provide communication between a computing system and a network, said network adapter operable at more than one link speed;
a network device driver to control functionality of said network adapter; and
a power source to provide power to said computing system,
wherein said network device driver ~~causes said network adapter to switch said link speed to maximize longevity of said power source~~ periodically executes a maintenance routine to determine if the computing system is powered by a source of finite power capacity and lowers the link speed of the network adapter if the computing system is powered by the source of finite power capacity.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) The link speed adjusting system of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

4. (currently amended) The link speed adjusting system of claim 1, wherein said network device driver again executes the maintenance routine to determine if the computing system is powered the an AC power source and causes said network adapter to switch from a lower link speed to a higher link speed when said power source changes from [[a]] the power source of finite power capacity to [[an]] the AC power source.

5. (original) The link speed adjusting system of claim 4, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

Claims 6 and 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) The link speed adjusting system of claim 1, ~~wherein said network adapter is adapted to operate at link speeds of 10 Mb/s and 100 Mb/s~~ wherein the link speed remains at the lower link speed at all times if the source of finite capacity is the battery.

9. (original) The link speed adjusting system of claim 1, wherein said network adapter is able to operate at link speeds of 10 Mb/s, 100 Mb/s and 1,000 Mb/s.

10. (currently amended) A method of adapting a link speed of a network controller in a computing system to maximize longevity of a local power supply, comprising:

querying, by a network device driver, said computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity; and

lowering said link speed if said computing system has recently changed to said source of finite power capacity.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

13. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said link speed is 10 Mb/s, 100 Mb/s or 1,000 Mb/s

14. (currently amended) A link speed adjusting system, comprising:
a machine-readable storage medium; and
machine-readable program code, stored on the machine-readable storage medium, the machine-readable program code having instructions to:
query, by a network device driver, a computing system utilizing a periodic maintenance routine, to determine if a local power supply has recently changed to a source of finite power capacity; and
lower said link speed if said computing system has recently changed to said source of finite power capacity.

15. (currently amended) The link speed adjusting system of claim 14, wherein said machine-readable program code has further instructions to:
query said computing system by utilizing the periodic maintenance routine to determine if said local power supply has recently changed to an AC power source; and
raise said link speed if said computing system has recently changed to said AC power source.

16. (original) The link speed adjusting system of claim 14, wherein said source of finite power capacity is selected from the group consisting of a battery and an Uninterruptible Power System (UPS).

17. (original) The link speed adjusting system of claim 14, wherein said link speed is 10 Mb/s, 100 Mb/s or 1,000 Mb/s.